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Illinois. Dept of Public Aid.
Food stamps help you : buy more food, pay less money.

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FOOD FARMERS FOR YOU

BUY MORE FOOD
PAY LESS MONEY

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YOU NEED GOOD FOOD TO STAY HEALTHY

If you do not have enough income to buy all the food your family needs, you may be able to take part in the Food Stamp program.

It's a plan that allows families or persons with low income to buy food stamps -- and get extra stamps free. The stamps are used instead of cash to pay for food at the grocery store.

THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM WORKS THIS WAY:

You spend part of your monthly income for food stamps and get extra free or bonus stamps with your purchase.

The number of stamps you buy each month and the number of free ones you receive depends on the size of your family and the income of your household.

WHO CAN BUY FOOD STAMPS?

You will probably qualify for food stamps if you receive public assistance or general assistance. You are not eligible if you live in a nursing home or commercial room and board home, or if you receive a restaurant allowance.

If you do not receive public aid, you may still be eligible if your monthly net income is not more than:

UMBER OF PERSONS I HOUSEHOLD	MONTHLY NET INCOME LIMIT
One	$ 245
Two	322
Three	447
Four	567
Five	673
Six	807
Seven	893
Eight	1,020
For each additional member	127

Many of your expenses are considered in guring your monthly net income. If some of our necessary expenses -- such as rent, edical care, or child care -- are high, you may e eligible for food stamps, even though your onthly net income is more than the amount sted above.

The things you own are also considered. ou may have as much as $1,500 ($3,000 if one of o or more household members is 60 years old older) and still be eligible. This includes bank id savings accounts, stocks, bonds, and other ings such as a second car or boat. Your home, ie licensed automobile, life insurance, and rsonal belongings are not considered.

These are general guidelines. Your local epartment of Public Aid can tell you for certain you are eligible.

OW TO APPLY

You must contact your local Department Public Aid to apply for food stamps. (Some cal departments have a special food stamp fice.)

If you do the family food buying and anage the household money, you are the rson in your family who should apply.

If you are unable to apply, another respon- ile member of the household or an authorized presentative who is not in the family may be owed to make the application.

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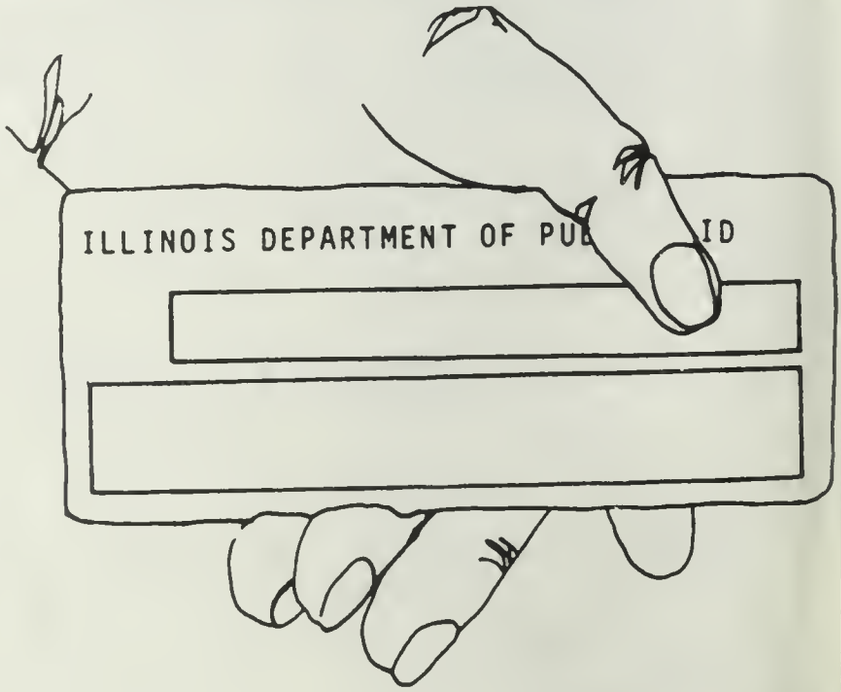
When you apply, you must bring with you certain items about your income and expenses which will help determine if you are eligible for food stamps. Please bring to the local Department of Public Aid:

- rent receipts or house payment books and utility bills
- papers that show income of all those in your household, such as your latest pay slips, or check stubs for Social Security and railroad benefits, pensions, or unemployment compensation
- Your last income tax returns, bank books or other papers that show any savings for members of your household
- current medical bills (doctor, hospital, medicine).

It is important that you provide correct information about each person who lives and eats with you.

HOW TO BUY FOOD STAMPS

If your application for food stamps is approved, you will be sent an *"Authorization to Purchase"* document in the mail. With this you also will receive identification for use at the grocery store when you purchase food. The authorization document will tell you how much money you must spend for stamps and how many free or bonus stamps you will receive.



Any household participating in the Food Stamp program may choose to purchase ¼, ½, or ¾ of the monthly allotment after requesting and receiving authorization from the county or district office.

Take these *"Authorization to Purchase"* documents to the place where food stamps are sold (certain post offices, banks, or currency exchanges) and buy your food stamps. You must do this before the expiration date which appears on the authorization.

The stamps will be given to you in books with different money values: $2.00, $7.00, $40.00, $50.00 and $65.00.

Count your food stamp books when you get them to be sure you have the number you should. Sign your name in your books right away. If you lose a book, you might get it back if it is signed.

If you are not able to get out to buy food stamps, you can order them by mail or authorize someone else to buy them for you. Ask your local Department of Public Aid about this.

HOW TO USE YOUR FOOD STAMPS

Do your food buying in your regular grocery store. When you take your groceries to the check-out counter, tell the clerk right away that you are paying with food stamps. To pay what you owe, give the clerk the proper amount

of food stamps instead of money. For example, i your bill is for $9.00, give the clerk one $2.00 bool and one $7.00 book or the equivalent. That's all you do.

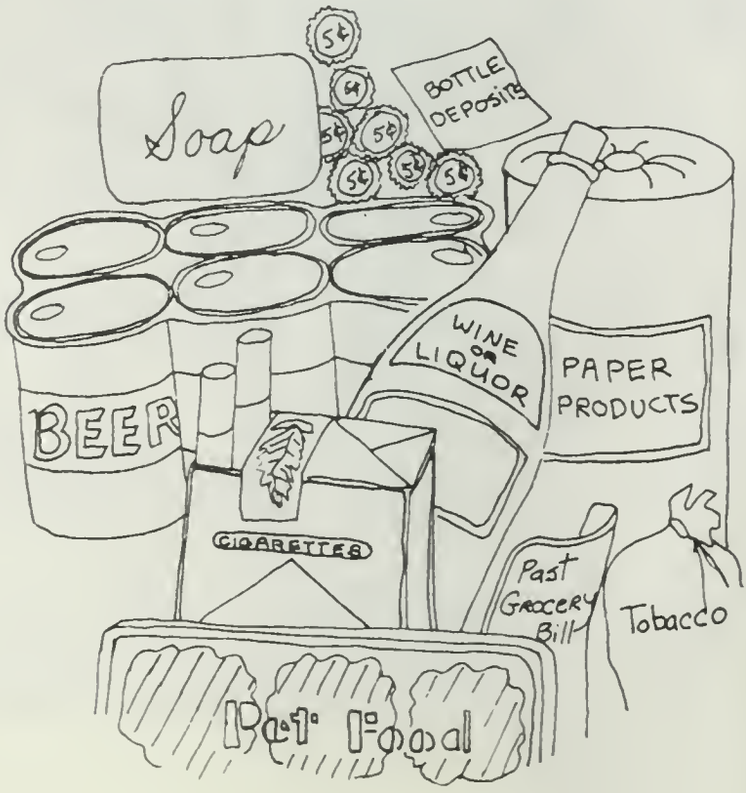
The clerk will give a credit slip for change o 99 cents or less due you. Cash change cannot be given.

There are certain products which you cannot buy with food stamps. They are listed below. If you buy these at the same time you bu your groceries, you must pay for them separatel with cash.

You CANNOT use your food stamps for:

- liquor
- beer
- cigarettes
- tobacco
- pet food
- bottle deposits
- paper products
- soap or other household supplies
- old grocery bills

Food stamps are to be used only for fooc items. Exceptions are seeds and plants for hom gardens in which you produce food for your ow household. If you are not sure whether food stamps will buy a certain product, ask your grocer.



SOME DO'S AND DON'TS

DO:

- Tell your local Department of Public Aid if you lose your food stamps or if you have any changes in address, income, the number of persons living with you, or any special hardships. You must report within 10 days any change in your household circumstances.
- Make certain the grocery store will accept food stamps before you buy your groceries.
- Plan ahead so your food stamps will last for a full month.

DO NOT:

- Sell or exchange your food stamps or misuse them in any way. If you do, you could be imprisoned and fined up to $10,000.

* * *

If your application for food stamps is denied and you do not think it was a fair decision, you can appeal for a hearing to the Illinois Department of Public Aid within 60 days after the date of the decision. You can also appeal for a hearing if you are receiving food stamps but think that a decision about the amount you receive is unfair.

The Food Stamp program is available to all eligible persons in Illinois regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, or political beliefs. It is a national program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is administered in Illinois by the Department of Public Aid.

If you have questions about food stamps or your eligibility to buy them, call or visit the Department of Public Aid office that serves the county or area where you live.

ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AID

316 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62762

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